

HFA-305
98P-1194

FDA
5600 Fisher Lane
Rockville, MD. 20857

I understand that you are reconsidering the advisability of allowing Bovine Growth Hormone to be used on our nation's cattle. I would like to add my voice to those scientists and consumers who are calling for the ban of this substance. My reasons:

Despite repeated assertions to the contrary by Monsanto, it is well known that use of rGBH creates significant health problems in cattle, reducing their lifespans and increasing levels of pus, blood, and bacteria in their milk. The resultant authorization by your office of greatly increased use of antibiotics in dairy cattle has resulted, according to the April 27 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, in new strains of bacteria such as salmonella which are resistant to a wide array of existing antibiotics. Developing in dairy cows, these are now spreading to humans.

We also now know that milk from cows injected with BGH contain increased levels of the hormone Insulin-Like Growth Factor - 1, or IGF-1. Not destroyed by milk pasteurization, IGF-1 is active in humans, causing cells to divide, so that increased levels of IGF-1 in milk raises the question among a number of reputable scientists about the possibility of this leading to the growth of cancerous tumors (prostate, breast, colon).

No one really knows the answer to this question, however, since BGH has never been tested in the long-term for chronic human health effects. In this light, prudence should call for considerably more testing before introducing such a problematic agent into our nation's food supply.

So why are we the only country in the world that has approved the use of Bovine Growth Hormone for their nation's cattle, despite vigorous International lobbying efforts by Monsanto and USDA officials? Moreover, why do we need this at all, since we already have huge annual surpluses of dairy products in the U.S.?

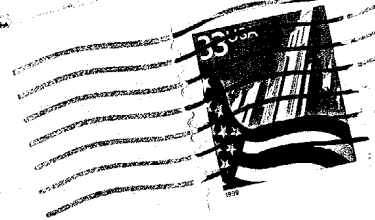
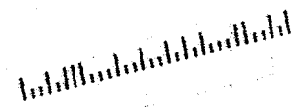
Sincerely,
Roger L. Brancato

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